

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A packet crosspoint works with an arbiter to control the number of packets being received at the input ports of the cross-connect from traffic sources coupled thereto. This is accomplished by monitoring the number of packets waiting in buffers in the output ports, as well as the number of other packets which the arbiter has already granted for transmission to the input ports of the cross-connect, but which have not as of yet been received in the output queue of the destination output port. An audit mechanism is included for ensuring that output port grant counters do not drift upward based on the fact that some granted packets are lost in the system.